

# **Corneal Refractive Surgery Naval Aviation Standards**



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# Aviation Standards

- Class I and II, III
  - PRK Only
  - **Surgery performed at Navy facility**
    - Member may request waiver at four weeks
  - **Surgery at Non-Navy DOD facility**
    - Member may request waiver at three to six months
    - 3 mos if Rx  $\leq -5.50D$ ; 6 mos if Rx  $\geq -5.50D$  or  $+0.25$  to  $+6.00D$
- Class III
  - PRK or Lasik (**only class that allows Lasik**)



# Current Status

- NAMI Database of Aviation PRK Recipients = 1,745
- Number without Waivers = **219**
- 87.45% Success Rate for Waivers



# Current Status

- If the Aeromedical Summary (AMS) is properly submitted by the Flight Surgeon to Code 323, NAMI Eye Dept, approval within 1-2 days
- Records show that Aeromedical Summaries are being submitted to Code 323 up to three years post-op PRK



# Waiver Process, Post-Op

- Exams performed at 2 and 4 weeks post-op
  - Criteria for up-Chit and Waiver Submission
    - If, Correctable to 20/20-0 each eye
    - If, Refractive Stability Demonstrated
      - **$\leq 0.50$  D change in sphere or cylinder**



# Waiver Process, cont

- If the patient does not meet criteria to return to active flight status
  - Repeat exams until stability shown
    - Must be two weeks apart
- If the aviator is still on topical steroids
  - Flight Activities restricted to home area until the prescribed discontinuance of topical steroids
  - No cross country flights until the patient is free from topical steroid regimen



# Waiver Process, cont

- Flight Surgeon submits Aeromedical Summary to NAMI, Code 323
  - The submission of all Aeromedical Summaries is the ultimate responsibility of the Flight Surgeon
- Navy Optometry can assume a key role in the proper input to the PRK AMS



# Waiver Process, cont

- If AMS shows refractive stability, 20/20 vision and the AMS is completed correctly,
  - Code 323 sends the approved AMS to the Flight Surgeon
  - Upon receipt of the approved AMS, the Flight Surgeon can issue a 90 day temporary up-chit
- **Code 42 (Medical Waivers) submits the waiver packet to BUPERS or CMC for approval of the Medical Waiver for PRK**





# Approving Authority

- The approving authority for Naval medical waivers
  - **BUPERS**
- The approving authority for USMC medical waivers
  - **Commandant, Marine Corps (CMC)**



**NAMI DOES NOT GRANT  
WAIVERS**



# OD Co-Management

- How can Navy Optometry assist in the process
  - Assist the Flight Surgeon in the completion of the Aeromedical Summary (AMS)
    - Navy Optometrists maintain the clinical data of the Post-Op exams
  - Be the proactive Optometry Consultant for the Aeromedical Submission Process



# Co-Management, cont

- Download the information and forms from

the NOMI Website

Ophthalmology Waiver Guide

- Review the Guidelines for Designated Personnel
- Scroll down to the forms at the bottom
- Download and save to hard drive



# Co-Management, cont

- Aeromedical Summary Template can be downloaded for clinic use
- Complete Optometry Data on AMS
- Submit as a Word Document to the Flight Surgeon
- Flight Surgeon completes AMS and sends as a Word Document to NAMI, Code 323



# Co-Management, cont

- Areas of Concern
  - Variable Refractions demonstrated between the two manifests, over 0.50D sphere or cylinder
  - Unaided Acuity worse than demonstrated by the refractions
    - MR:-1.00-1.00x090 with unaided of 20/15
  - Refractions less than two weeks apart
  - Corrected Acuity less than 20/20-0 or 20/20-3



# Co-Management, Cont

- Your electronic signature is on the AMS
- Review the AMS with the Flight Surgeon before it is sent to NAMI for review
- Your assistance in the proper completion of the AMS will improve compliance



# Co-Management, cont

- Suggestions:
  - Complete as much of the AMS as possible before sending it to the Flight Surgeon
    - Navy Optometrists should know how to complete the AMS for post-op PRK
    - Type the refractive information onto the AMS template
    - Send template to the Flight Surgeon as a Word Document attachment





# Co-Management, cont

- Request that AMS submission, by the Flight Surgeon, to NAMI has the Optometrist on the “cc” line
- Request that the Flight Surgeon provide a completed and approved AMS to the Optometrist to place in the PRK folder



# Co-Management, cont

- Maintain a data base of PRK information, to include the AMS
- Assist the Flight Surgeons in completing outstanding Aeromedical Summaries
- As the saying goes, “The work is not done until the paper work is completed”



# Co-Management, cont

- Again, the **ultimate responsibility** for the Aeromedical Summary is the Flight Surgeons.
- Navy Optometry can definitely assist in the management of the required documents to return the aviator to active flight status.



# NAMI Assistance

- Feel free to contact NAMI Aerospace Optometrists for assistance:
  - LCDR Stephen L. Cooley
    - DSN: 922-2257 x1052
    - [Slcooley@nomi.med.navy.mil](mailto:Slcooley@nomi.med.navy.mil)
  - LCDR Kenneth J. Whitwell
    - DSN: 922-2257 x1051
    - [Kjwhitwell@nomi.med.navy.mil](mailto:Kjwhitwell@nomi.med.navy.mil)



# Summary

- Completion Rate of 87.45% is outstanding
- There are 219 aviators flying without waivers in place
- Completion Rate needs to be **100%**
- Navy Optometry's role is **significantly important** to the overall process

